

San Joaquin Corridor Strategic Business Plan

CALTRANS DIVISION OF RAIL

What? A Strategic Business Plan will provide an overview, purpose, need and vision for the San Joaquin rail corridor. Amtrak California trains on this route serve communities from Sacramento and the San Francisco Bay Area to Bakersfield, which combine with service extensions into southern California and other destinations statewide on Amtrak Thruway buses.

Why? Caltrans seeks to increase ridership, revenue, capacity, reliability, and safety along this passenger rail corridor by identifying and implementing conventional rail improvements throughout the region. The overall goal of the study is further development of the San Joaquins as an alternative transportation system that relieves highway and air traffic congestion and supports efficient, environmentally superior land uses.

How? Our Technical Advisory Group members will work cooperatively to form consensus on product delivery and future implementation. Members include Caltrans, Amtrak, the railroads and others. The San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee would be informed throughout this planning process, too, in its continued policy advisory role with respect to this corridor. A comprehensive public participation program will be developed and deployed. Caltrans will retain a consulting firm that has specific experience in rail corridor strategic planning to coordinate this process.

Products? A Corridor Strategic Business Plan for the Amtrak California San Joaquins will identify possible capital projects/locations by time horizon along with a future planning process proposal. This study also develops a priority list of railroad crossings along the corridor that need immediate enhanced protections.

Outcomes? Besides providing a thorough public outreach process that raises awareness of rail planning issues, the plan will also detail how specific proposed improvements would benefit train service and performance (train capacity, running time, safety, reliability, cost and cost effectiveness).

Who benefits? Improved passenger service will continue offering all travelers on this corridor a viable rail modal choice to driving the state highway system. A spillover economic benefit of investment in projects identified in this Strategic Business Plan is more efficient freight service on the railroads that transport goods to and from our State's international trade, industrial, agricultural and natural resource sectors.

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